

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BRIAN SICKNICK FUNERAL

HON. DAN CRENSHAW

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, another hero laid to rest here in Arlington Cemetery. I know this place well. Some of my dearest friends are here.

This is a place for America's best. It is not just that these men and women are heroes, of course they are, it is that they are our best. And in my experience, we always seem to lose the best of us.

Brian lived with purpose. He lived asking what he could do for his country, for his community, and small animals. Sandra tells me he was the type of guy that would get out of the car and run across the parking lot to move a small turtle to safety. He was a real man, because real men are comfortable owning two small Dachshunds, as Brian did. I am not saying that just because I also have two small Dachshunds, I am saying it because it's true. Real men don't need to prove anything with big dogs.

Everyone has purpose in this life, I firmly believe that. You're here for a reason. But not enough of us act as if that is true. Brian did.

He lived for his family, his mother, Gladys, his father, Charles, his brothers, Ken and Craig, and his girlfriend, Sandra. He joined the Air Force with a mission to serve our nation's defense. He lived for others. After he was injured on January 6th he spent his last remaining hours texting fellow officers and checking in on them. People needed Brian, because he was a good man, because he was one of our best.

There is another common thread that links those buried here at Arlington with Brian. These are protectors. These are the men and women that stand in the breach. That gap between the helpless and the aggressor, between right and wrong, between good and evil.

Many like to think they too could stand in that gap, but they'd be wrong. So many these days think they know better, think they could do it better, and they'll be the first to tell you so.

But this job is not for the weak and loud, it is for the strong and silent. It is for the brave, those like Brian that quietly and professionally carry out their duty. Because that gap that they stand in isn't always so clear. It's messy. It's complicated. It's not always obvious what is right and what is wrong, who the victims are, or who is good or bad.

And so, we take our best, and we say go forth and stand in the breach and figure it out. Be there to make those split-second choices so that we don't have to. Be there to keep our families safe so that we don't have to. Go overseas and make sure the enemy doesn't come here so that we don't have to.

You be there, and the rest of us will be here waiting, to judge you and second guess you.

We ask them to do the impossible, we don't even ask that nicely, and they do it with pride and with honor.

If I may be so bold as to guess what Brian might have asked of us. I think that he, and the heroes buried here with him, might simply ask us all to be better. I think they appreciate our gratitude and our deference to their memory, but I think most of all they just want us to be better.

And I don't mean trying to make others better, or even our country better. I mean I think they want us to start with ourselves. To make ourselves better. Because that is in fact the hard work.

He might ask us to ask ourselves what went so wrong—in our country and in our hearts—that fellow Americans did what they did to Brian on that day. He might ask us to reflect for a moment before we lash out at each other, before we blame, before we chastise, before we judge, before we lose patience. He might ask us to recall that the greatness of the American spirit lies in a sense of responsibility, of accountability, and perhaps a bit of appreciation for freedom.

Being better means decency. It means citizenship. Living with the duty that Brian exemplified. It means running toward danger not because there is glory in doing so but because you must. It means trying to live up to the memory of the heroes buried here, to be worthy of their sacrifice.

This past year has been a low point, no doubt, but it is men like Brian that remind us of the grit and tenacity and good character that America was built on. He may not be with us anymore, but if we are to honor him then we should do so by using his memory as a reminder of what this country can be.

A reminder that there are indeed more like him. A reminder that the bravery and love inside of Brian Sicknick is not peculiar to him, but part of the American DNA. A reminder that our duty is to make these heroes proud, prove to them that their sacrifice was for a country worth sacrificing for. That we are a people worth sacrificing for. With men like Brian standing in the gap, it is hard to imagine that we are not.

This is still the greatest country on earth. This is still the great American experiment that has done more good for mankind than any other civilization in history. We will not forget that fact just because times are hard. We will persevere and strive to be better and do justice to the memory of those buried here.

May Officer Brian Sicknick rest easy here on these hallowed grounds. He is in good company. He has undoubtedly earned his place here amongst America's best. God bless him. God bless this great country.

Never Forget.

HONORING OFFICER ADAM TACK

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary South Carolinian, Officer Adam Tack of the Horry County Police Department.

Last night, Officer Tack was awarded the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. Officer Tack puts his life at risk daily while upholding his oath to protect his community. He is a true hero.

September 17, 2020, Officer Tack saved the lives of Liam and Levi Cannon trapped in a car sinking in the floodwaters of Hurricane Sally. He dove in the water and using his baton broke the window to pull the two children from the car. Tack only had minor injuries and all five Cannon family members survived.

Madam Speaker, I join the people of Horry County in recognizing Officer Adam Tack. We thank him for his service and commitment to our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON AN OPEN SOCIETY WITH SECURITY ACT OF 2021

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security Act of 2021, which would create a commission to investigate how we can maintain our democratic traditions while actively responding to the real and substantial threats posed by foreign and domestic terrorism.

The impetus for this commission was born after the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, grew in importance after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and has reached peak urgency since the insurrectionist attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. The succession of tragic events endured by our nation has led to a series of sweeping security increases that are deemed both necessary and temporary in the moment but create lasting security infrastructure that is difficult to dismantle and infringes on our open, democratic society.

We must acknowledge and accept that we have entered into an era of constant internal and external threats, requiring ever-higher levels of security for our people and public spaces. What we thought would be a temporary infringement on our open society has turned into a permanent restriction on how our citizens interact with each other and our democratic institutions. Because emergencies

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

typically dictate security decisions, essential discussions on the proper balance between national security, individual rights and the freedoms enjoyed in an open society have been repeatedly deferred.

My bill would ensure that this long overdue discussion takes place in a public forum with experts drawn from across the spectrum. To date, security planning has been delegated almost exclusively to security, intelligence and military experts. Although their input is indispensable, they cannot be expected to accurately consider the externalities that lie outside of their expertise. To strike a better balance that gives sufficient importance to our democratic traditions, we need to invite experts from diverse fields to the same table to work together. Therefore, the commission would be composed not only of security, intelligence and military experts, but also experts from such fields as business, architecture, technology, law, city planning, art, engineering, philosophy, history, sociology and psychology.

We have used commissions before to deeply investigate and address unprecedented challenges, such as the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9/11 Commission), the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (also known as the Silberman Robb Commission) and the Kerner Commission following riots that swept American cities in the 1960s. The commission created by this bill would seek to avert a crisis in basic freedoms before their infringement becomes entrenched. We cannot allow security protocols to proliferate without informed civilian oversight and a thorough analysis of alternatives that might better safeguard freedom and commerce.

Furthermore, we have had decades to develop strategies and technologies for smarter security that can fulfill the responsibility of safety without depriving our citizens of access to institutions and personal liberty. Thus far, we have either relied on imprecise medieval approaches like crude barriers or on over-expansive new technologies that treat privacy like a privilege instead of a right. We can, and must, do better.

As the home of our federal government, the District of Columbia's residents have suffered a disproportionate infringement on public spaces, personal rights and freedoms in the name of security. Public spaces that serve as the heart of our local communities have become restricted zones characterized by a heavy security presence, with individuals liable to be reprimanded for walking on the wrong side of the street or marveling too long at the architecture. Barriers such as walls and fences are touted as essential security features while our citizens are left peering at their democracy from a distance.

Security is not only about reducing lives lost and dollars cost. It is also about safeguarding the institutions, freedoms and values that anchor our country, not only for ourselves but for future generations. The social compact between government and the people should not be the result of a series of hostage negotiations. We must resume reasoned and deliberative decision-making, beginning with a high-level commission composed of experts from diverse disciplines charged with developing a new course that will protect both our people and our precious democratic institutions and traditions.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DENTON RYAN FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding performance of Denton ISD's Ryan High School Football Team, the Ryan Raiders, during the 2020 football season.

In the past year, the team's prowess and exceptional diligence led them to an undefeated season, culminating in a victory at the Conference 5A Division 1 Championship on January 15, 2021. After facing an intense series of preliminary games, the Ryan Raiders finally secured the state title in their game against Cedar Park at Arlington's AT&T stadium.

Led by head coach Dave Henigan, Defensive MVP Ty Marsh, and Offensive MVP Seth Henigan, the team attained its first state championship victory since 2002. The exemplary commitment, teamwork, and effort displayed by the players, coaches, and coordinators of the Ryan Raiders earned them the state title.

The coaches and players of the Ryan High School Football Team overcame pressures and challenges amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and successfully achieved the pinnacle of their season. I am privileged to join their community, family and friends in celebrating their achievement and to recognize each and every one of them for their laudable devotion to their team and their sport. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF CHIEF MICHAEL SURPRENANT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor the career of a consummate public servant—Chief Michael Surprenant of the Plainfield Police Department. A dedicated law enforcement officer, Chief Surprenant has served the town of Plainfield and the 2nd Congressional District for over two decades. His tenure as Chief began in 2012 replacing Robert Hoffman, another role model of public service. His character, dedication to the department, and unwavering professionalism made him an ideal candidate for the role.

Over the past nine years, Michael has ushered in a new era for the department. Not only fighting for the safety and wellbeing of so many in his town, but fighting for the betterment of the department, making sure our first responders, who put their lives on the line every day, are given the encouragement and equipment they are rightfully due. Michael has always put his officers before himself and as leader of the force has never had an officer sustain a serious injury or fatality—a record for which he should be truly proud. Working as an officer through some of the most perilous moments in our nation's history—9/11, Sandy Hook, and other domestic incidents—Michael

has remained steadfast and composed in ensuring that the department was trained and prepared to tackle various threats at a moment's notice.

With Michael's years of experience as a patrol officer, deputy chief, graduate of the FBI's National Academy, and recipient of the Medal of Excellence—Michael has been a beacon of wisdom within the department. Michael has strived to be a police chief that prioritized the wellbeing and safety of his residents above all else and has gone above and beyond to ensure that the department had the resources it needed. Michael has served as a role model for his fellow officers and has truly led by example, and I am certain that his civic dedication will continue into the next chapter of his life.

While Michael's retirement is bittersweet, we know that he has groomed only the best to take his place. Madam Speaker, fellow colleagues—I ask you to join me in honoring Michael's 25 years of service to the State of Connecticut and our nation, and in wishing him, his wife Kristyn, and their twin boys Jefferey and Luke—a safe and happy future.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE JUDGE PRESTON'S RETIREMENT

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of the Honorable Vernon L. Preston, Ohio Third District Court of Appeals Judge, and recognize the outstanding work he has done for the State of Ohio. On February 8, 2021, Judge Preston will be retiring after twenty-seven years of distinguished judicial service. His hard work and continued dedication to uphold the law and the Constitution is an example for all.

Judge Preston was born and raised in Findlay, Ohio. After attending Findlay High School and the University of Findlay, he proudly served on active duty in the United States Navy for six years. He retired with the rank of Captain in 2003 after serving twenty-five additional years in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

In 1980, Judge Preston graduated with a law degree from the University of Toledo. Upon graduation from law school, he opened a law practice in Portsmouth, Ohio. As a private practice attorney, he specialized in administrative and insurance law representing both individuals and business clients. Later, Judge Preston returned to Findlay where he served in a series of public service positions including Magistrate for the Findlay Municipal Court, Assistant Hancock County Prosecutor, and Assistant Findlay City Prosecutor. Before his appointment to the Third Court of Appeals in 2007, Judge Preston served on the Findlay Municipal Court Bench for thirteen years. In addition to his full-time schedule as a judge, he was an Adjunct Professor of Equine Law at the University of Findlay.

Judge Preston's work has had a lasting influence on our judicial system and a significant impact on his community. The citizens of Fifth District of Ohio join me in congratulating the Honorable Vernon Preston for his service to Ohio and our nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN-ELECT LUKE J. LETLOW

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of our friend and colleague, Congressman-elect Luke J. Letlow. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in Congress and for my family and staff when I express how deeply saddened and heartbroken we were to learn of the passing of Luke on December 30, 2020. We lost him far too early, and our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Julia, and children, Jeremiah and Jacqueline.

Luke's interest in public service began at a young age on a field trip to Washington, D.C. As a fifth grader visiting Arlington Cemetery, he was chosen to place the wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier, and it was that moment that stuck with him for years to come. Understanding the ultimate sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform to protect the freedoms we enjoy as Americans inspired Luke. It was this inspiration that motivated him to fight for the principles that make America great during his time as chairman of the Louisiana Tech College Republicans and the Louisiana Federation of College Republicans. His passion for service continued after college as he served on the staffs of Congressman John Cooksey and Governor Bobby Jindal. A short time later, Luke returned to work in the office of Congressman Ralph Abraham, where he served as Chief of Staff for six years. Known as a servant's servant, in 2020, Luke made the decision to launch a bid to replace his boss and represent the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Louisiana.

After a successful campaign and election, Luke was looking forward to serving the people of Louisiana in Congress, and we were excited to welcome him into our delegation. He was ready to make an even greater impact on our state and our nation. Luke's favorite phrases were "win the day" and "go, fight, win," which he was fully prepared to do when he was set to be sworn into the United States House of Representatives on January 3, 2021. We are saddened that we could not share that day with Luke and his family.

While I wish I was standing here welcoming him to Congress, I rise today to honor all that Luke accomplished in his 41 years of life. He will be remembered in this chamber, in Louisiana, and across the nation for his servant's heart and the kindness he extended to all that had the chance to meet him. As Luke is looking down at us from Heaven, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring his life and accomplishments.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 447, NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP ACT OF 2021; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 11, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary, on Homeland Security, on the Budget, and as the Member of Congress for a congressional district that has experienced the worst of COVID-19 as a public health emergency and economic catastrophe, I rise in strong support of the rule governing debate on H.R. 447, the National Apprenticeship Act of 2021, and H. Con. Res. 11, as well as the underlying legislation.

The National Apprenticeship Act has the potential to yield \$10.6 billion in net benefits to U.S. taxpayers in the form of increased workers productivity and decreased spending on public-assistance programs and unemployment insurance and which bring America's investments in apprenticeship more in line with countries around the world.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation could not be more timely because during a time of record unemployment, the National Apprenticeship Act of 2021 creates an additional 1 million new apprenticeship opportunities and invests more than \$3.5 billion over 5 years in expanding opportunities and access to Registered Apprenticeships, youth apprenticeships, and pre-apprenticeships.

I also strongly support H. Con. Res. 11 because it reorders budgetary priorities to provide \$1.9 trillion to allow Congress to take immediate and decisive action to crush the virus and vaccinate our people, build the economy back better, reopen schools, and provide needed support and assistance to state and local governments that have been asked to do too much with too little for far too long.

Mr. Speaker, by an overwhelming margin (79 percent), the public wants and is demanding that we act to provide more economic relief to address the damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents believe an additional relief package is necessary, while more than nine in ten (92 percent) Democrats and Democratic leaners say more coronavirus aid will be needed.

Even the most conservative Republicans favor more relief by a 56 percent–44 percent margin.

Nearly nine-in-ten of all adults (88 percent) in lower-income households say an additional package is necessary, while 81 percent of Republicans in lower-income households (81 percent) say additional aid is needed now.

Let me make clear at the outset, Mr. Speaker, that nothing in this resolution precludes the reaching of a bipartisan and bicameral agreement to pass and fund the President's America Rescue Plan, which in nearly all material respects mirrors the Heroes Act passed by the House Democratic majority on May 15, 2020,

nearly nine months ago, only to languish on the Republican Senate Majority Leader's desk while hundreds of thousands of our fellow Americans succumbed to the virus and millions of others lost their livelihoods and businesses, and everyone faced an uncertain future.

It would send a powerful signal to the American people if our colleagues across the aisle would join us in this effort because nothing would better show them that elected representatives can put partisanship aside and put America first.

And that bipartisan achievement would portend success for similar initiatives in the area of infrastructure, energy, national and homeland security, and criminal justice and immigration reform, all of which I am ready and willing to reach across the aisle to find common ground.

So if our Republican colleagues are amenable to reaching an agreement on a legislative response that is commensurate to the challenge facing Americans, nothing in the legislation before will preclude that from happening.

But have no doubt, if they refuse to be part of the solution, the unified and bicameral Democratic congressional majority, in coordination with the new Democratic Administration, will take the lead and act boldly to address and overcome the present crisis.

I would urge my Republican colleagues to heed the words of Republican Governor of West Virginia who said colorfully just a few days ago, "At this point in time in this nation, we need to go big. We need to quit counting the egg-sucking legs on the cows and count the cows and just move. And move forward and move right now."

The same sentiment was expressed more eloquently by Abraham Lincoln in 1862 when he memorably wrote:

"The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew."

Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan action we took last December was a step in the right direction but only a long-delayed down payment; we cannot afford any more delays, especially since Republican stalling already caused a painful lapse in critical unemployment assistance last year, and additional unemployment assistance is set to expire in March.

That why this resolution, which creates a failsafe alternative to debating, voting, and passing the American Rescue Act, is absolutely crucial and the right thing to do, right now.

The American Rescue Plan proposed by President Biden takes a multiprong approach to tackling the public health and economic crises stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

To beat the virus and safely reopen schools, the plan will mount a national vaccination program that includes setting up community vaccination sites nationwide and makes the investments necessary to safely reopen schools.

It will also take complementary measures to combat the virus, including scaling up testing and tracing, addressing shortages of personal protective equipment and other critical supplies, investing in high-quality treatments, and addressing health care disparities.

The American Rescue Plan delivers immediate relief to working families bearing the

brunt of the crisis by providing \$1,400 per person in direct cash assistance to households across America, bringing the total (including the \$600 down payment enacted in December) to \$2,000.

Additionally, the plan will also provide direct housing and nutrition assistance to families struggling to get by, expand access to safe and reliable child care and affordable health care, extend and expand unemployment insurance so American workers can pay their bills, and give families with children as well as childless workers a boost through enhanced tax credits.

Mr. Speaker, the American Rescue Plan provides much needed support for communities struggling with the economic fallout, including hard-hit small businesses, especially those owned by entrepreneurs from racial and ethnic backgrounds that have experienced systemic discrimination.

Last, the plan also provides crucial resources to protect the jobs of first responders, frontline public health workers, teachers, transit workers, and other essential workers that all Americans depend on.

The 2021 budget resolution is not a comprehensive fiscal blueprint for the next 10 years; it is designed solely to provide the option of using reconciliation to deliver critical relief and achieve the goals of the American Rescue Plan.

As such, the total spending and revenue levels in the resolution simply reflect current-law projections adjusted for the estimated costs of the American Rescue Plan.

Once the American Rescue Plan becomes law, Congress will begin its work on a forward-looking, comprehensive budget resolution for 2022 that will provide urgently needed economic support and address longstanding deficits in our communities and underlying inequities in our society, which have been so starkly revealed and exacerbated by COVID-19.

Mr. Speaker, the Rule provides for the adoption of H. Res. 73, which authorizes and directs the Sergeant-at-Arms to fine Members, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner for failure to complete security screening for entrance to the House Chamber.

The Sergeant-at-Arms is authorized and directed to impose a \$5,000 fine against a Member, Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner for the first offense of failing to complete security screening for entrance to the House Chamber.

The fine for this major breach of security shall be doubled to \$10,000 for any subsequent offense and is to be paid from the personal funds of the Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner involved; neither the Member Representational Allowance (MRA) or campaign funds may be used to satisfy any fine levied for entering the House Chamber without undergoing security screening.

This is a common-sense measure to provide for the physical safety and security of Members and staff, made all the more necessary by the horrific events of January 6, 2021, when the 45th President of the United States incited an insurrection against the United States by exhorting his mob of loyalists, many of whom were armed and wearing Kevlar vests, to storm the U.S. Capitol and lay siege to this Citadel of Democracy, and in the process cause the deaths of at least six persons, one of whom was a uniformed officer to the United States Capitol Police, who was bludgeoned to death by the incited mob.

I hope this is the first of many actions that must be taken by the Congress, including providing more resources and training to the United States Capitol Police, to increase the security and protect the sanctity of this sacred institution that has stood as a beacon of freedom and hope to people the world over for more than two centuries.

I strongly support this legislation and urge all Members to join me in voting for its passage.

HOUSE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF VIRAL DISEASES

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a House Resolution calling for the establishment of a new unit of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to be known as The National Institute of Viral Diseases, to increase federal research in the field of viral diseases. As viral diseases are unique to infectious diseases, we must strengthen our scientific understanding and the government's role in discovering viral diseases causes, prevention and treatments.

I am introducing this resolution to build upon our federal governments' investment in scientific research and to consider expanding the scope of NIH's excellent work. Through my Appropriations Committee work across various subcommittees, I have become increasingly concerned that federal funding in the field of biomedical sciences in particular, has lagged behind the clinical work of NIH and the physical sciences of the National Science Foundation. Research methodology takes a unique approach, and as our nation continues to grapple with the coronavirus pandemic, there is a need for more investment in biomedical research related to viral diseases.

The benefits of federal funding for biomedical sciences can be seen beyond just the patients whose lives are saved. In 2012, Dr. Francis Collins the Director of the NIH cited data that shows for every \$1 of NIH health research funding, it returns \$2.21 in goods and services in a single year. Additionally, according to analysis by Families USA, every NIH grant generates an average of seven high-quality jobs. Investing in science pushes the boundaries of taxpayer dollars and delivers positive outcomes for consumers.

COMMENDING THE MEMBERS OF THE GEORGIA NATIONAL GUARD

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to extend my heartfelt thanks to the members of the Georgia National Guard who were deployed to the District of Columbia and the National Capitol Region for the inauguration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr. as the 46th President of the United States and

KAMALA D. HARRIS as the 49th Vice President of the United States.

Since 1636, the National Guard has consistently served the American people in much-needed roles that range from homeland defense, overseas combat, humanitarian aid, and defense support for civil authorities.

As all of us are aware, sustained military operations worldwide, coupled with declining numbers of active-duty personnel, have required the Department of Defense to rely more and more on the use of the Georgia National Guard. Following the violent and deadly attempted coup at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, 2,284 members from the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 121st Infantry Regiment, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Georgia National Guard, and the 116th and 165th Security Forces Squadrons of the Georgia Air National Guard selflessly arrived in Washington, D.C. in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic—risking their health and safety in multiple ways to do their duty. Their mission was to aid and support the United States Capitol Police, the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, the United States Secret Service, the United States Park Police, and other Federal law enforcement agencies as they worked to keep our nation's capital secure after its occupation by domestic terrorists.

In keeping with the National Guard's motto of "Always Ready, Always There," these citizen-soldiers from Georgia were committed and ready on a moment's (short) notice to protect the U.S. Capitol and ensure that there was a peaceful transfer of power on January 20 in response to their deployment orders. Thanks to these brave men and women from Georgia, there were no incidents of violence that threatened the inaugural ceremonies. There is no doubt in my mind that their service prevented further loss of life and threats against our democracy. At one of our darkest times, the Georgia National Guard was there to protect America—from all enemies foreign or domestic.

Madam Speaker, I am very proud of the Georgia National Guard. Because of their service, the will of the People was honored, and the institutions of our government remain intact. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me and the people of Georgia, in extending our sincerest appreciation, pride, and utmost gratitude to the Georgia National Guard, the Adjutant General of Georgia Thomas Carden, and his staff, for their outstanding work, morale, and dedication to duty during the inauguration.

HONORING MAGGIE SMITH

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Margaret Smith, on her twenty-four years of service as an employee of the United States Congress.

A native Texan, Maggie received her Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of North Texas. Following graduation, she began her career with then-United States Senator, Phil Gramm, where she dutifully served as the State Administrator assisting in the management of seven regional offices across the

state. In addition to directing administrative support, she was responsible for managing an extensive casework portfolio and overseeing Senatorial United States Service Academy nominations.

In 2003, Ms. Smith would transition to the office of United States Congressman Jeb Hensarling (TX-05), where she would assume the role of Senior Constituent Liaison. As part of her duties, Maggie maintained casework operations and fostered strategic relationships on behalf of the Congressman between federal agencies and community leaders. Maggie also managed a wide variety of programs and events while working alongside colleagues in both the Washington, D.C. and district offices.

Following Congressman Hensarling's retirement in 2018, Maggie served the people of Texas' Third Congressional District as a Senior Constituent Services Coordinator, where she would assist with casework and community outreach across Collin County. During her time working for Congress, Maggie has been recognized as a respected professional, esteemed for her past efforts across the state.

Now upon her retirement and as she begins a new season of life, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ms. Margaret Smith for her longtime service and to wish her well on her future endeavors.

WORLD SCIENTISTS' WARNING OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, climate change is an existential threat to all of humanity, and it is essential that we start acting—now—to stop and reverse the destructive effects of climate change.

In 2020, my constituent Oregon State University Professor Dr. William Ripple, and colleagues published "World Scientists' Warning of a Climate Emergency" which has been endorsed by more than 11,000 scientists from 153 countries. They presented six transformative steps we can take to effectively combat climate change.

I urge my colleagues to read their report and join me in acting before it is too late.

[From Bioscience, Jan. 2020]

WORLD SCIENTISTS' WARNING OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

(By William J. Ripple, Christopher Wolf, Thomas M. Newsome, Phoebe Barnard, William R. Moomaw, and 11,092 scientist signatories from 153 countries)

Scientists have a moral obligation to clearly warn humanity of any catastrophic threat and "tell it like it is." Based on this obligation and the data presented below, we herein proclaim, with more than 11,000 scientist signatories from around the world, a clear and unequivocal declaration that a climate emergency exists on planet Earth.

Exactly 40 years ago, scientists from 50 nations met at the First World Climate Conference (Geneva, 1979) and agreed that alarming trends for climate change made it "urgently necessary" to act. Since then, similar alarms have been made through the 1992 Rio Summit, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, the 2015 Paris Agreement, as well as scores of other global assemblies and scientists' explicit

warnings of insufficient progress. Yet greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are still rising, with increasingly damaging effects on the Earth's climate. An immense change of scale in endeavors to conserve our biosphere is needed to avoid untold suffering due to the climate crisis.

Despite 40 years of global climate negotiations, with few exceptions, we have generally conducted business as usual and have largely failed to address this predicament. The climate crisis has arrived and is accelerating faster than most scientists expected. It is more severe than anticipated, threatening natural ecosystems and the fate of humanity. Especially worrisome are potential climate tipping points and nature's reinforcing feedbacks that could lead to a catastrophic "Hothouse Earth" and cause significant disruptions to ecosystems, society, and economies, potentially making large areas of Earth uninhabitable.

To secure a sustainable future, we must change how we live. Economic and population growth are among the most important drivers of increases in CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion; thus, we need bold and drastic transformations regarding economic and population policies. We suggest six critical and interrelated steps that governments, businesses and the rest of humanity can take to lessen the worst effects of climate change. These are important steps, but are not the only actions needed or possible.

1) Energy. The world must quickly implement massive energy efficiency and conservation practices, replace fossil fuels with low carbon renewables and other cleaner sources of energy. We should leave remaining stocks of fossil fuels in the ground, and carefully pursue effective negative emissions using technology such as carbon extraction from the source and capture from the air, and by enhancing natural systems (Step 3). Wealthier countries need to support poorer nations in transitioning away from fossil fuels. We must swiftly eliminate subsidies to fossil fuel corporations and use effective and fair schemes for steadily escalating carbon prices to restrain the use of fossil fuels.

2) Short-lived pollutants. We need to promptly reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants, including methane, black carbon (soot), and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Doing this could slow climate feedbacks and potentially reduce the short-term warming trend by >50% over the next few decades while saving millions of lives and increasing crop yields due to reduced air pollution. The 2016 Kigali amendment to phase down HFCs is welcomed.

3) Nature. We must protect and restore Earth's ecosystems. Phytoplankton, coral reefs, forests, savannas, grasslands, wetlands, peatlands, soils, mangroves, and sea grasses contribute greatly to sequestration of atmospheric CO₂. Marine and terrestrial plants, animals, and microorganisms play significant roles in carbon and nutrient cycling and storage. We need to quickly curtail forest and biodiversity loss, protecting the remaining primary and intact forests, while accomplishing reforestation and afforestation where appropriate at enormous scales. Although available land may be limiting in places, up to a third of emissions reductions needed by 2030 for the Paris agreement (<2°C) could be obtained with these natural climate solutions.

4) Food. Eating mostly plant-based foods while reducing the global consumption of animal products, especially ruminant livestock, can improve human health and significantly lower GHG emissions (including methane in step 2). Moreover, this will free up croplands for growing much needed human plant food instead of livestock feed, while releasing some grazing land to support

natural climate solutions (step 3). Cropping practices such as minimum tillage that increase soil carbon are vitally important. We need to drastically reduce the enormous amount of food waste around the world.

5) Economy. Excessive extraction of materials and overexploitation of ecosystems, driven by economic growth, must be quickly curtailed to maintain long-term sustainability of the biosphere. We need a carbon-free economy that explicitly addresses human dependence on the biosphere and policies that guide economic decisions accordingly. Goals need to shift from GDP growth and the pursuit of affluence toward supporting ecosystem and human wellbeing by prioritizing basic needs and reducing inequality.

6) Population. Still increasing by roughly 80 million people per year or >200,000 per day, we must stabilize and ideally gradually reduce the world population within a framework that ensures social integrity. There are proven and effective policies that strengthen human rights, while lowering fertility rates and lessening the impacts of population growth on GHG emissions and biodiversity loss. These policies involve making family planning services available to all people and achieving full gender equity, including primary and secondary education as a global norm for all, especially girls and young women.

Mitigating and adapting to climate change while honoring the diversity of humans entails major transformations in the ways our global society functions and interacts with natural ecosystems. We are encouraged by a recent surge of concern. Governmental bodies are making climate emergency declarations. Schoolchildren are striking. Ecocide lawsuits are proceeding in the courts. Grassroots citizen movements are demanding change, and many countries, states and provinces, cities, and businesses are responding.

As an Alliance of World Scientists, we stand ready to assist decision makers in a just transition to a sustainable and equitable future. The good news is that such transformative change, with social and economic justice for all, promises far greater human wellbeing in the long run than does business as usual. We believe that prospects will be greatest if decision makers and all of humanity promptly respond to this warning and declaration of a climate emergency, and act to sustain life on planet Earth, our only home.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO LOWER THE LEGAL VOTING AGE TO SIXTEEN

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, throughout our nation's history—from the Vietnam war-era movement that sparked the 26th Amendment to the students of Stoneman Douglas High School demanding action against gun violence—the power of youth activism has undeniably and profoundly impacted cultural and political movements throughout our nation's history. The modern fight against climate change continues to be led by young adults who recognize they will face the consequences of decisions that we make today.

Madam Speaker, it is time to give them a voice in our democracy by permitting them to be heard at the ballot box.

Sixteen-year-olds are legally permitted to work and pay federal income tax on their earnings. They are legally permitted to drive motor vehicles, and if they commit crimes they are tried as adults. If 16-year-olds are impacted by our laws, it is only fair that they be allowed to choose their representatives. Granting 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote ensures that their concerns and voices are heard by policymakers. Lowering the voting age can also strengthen civics education in our schools by making content relevant to students' lives, and incentivizing schools to prioritize civics.

Madam Speaker, research has shown that voting is a habitual behavior, which is why 16 is a better time than 18 to acquire the habit of voting. Numerous cities across our nation have already passed ordinances allowing 16-year-olds to vote in local municipal elections. Data from five cities in Maryland—which were among the first in America to lower the voting age to 16 for local elections—shows 16- and 17-year-olds have turned out to vote at equal or higher rates than voters from older age groups.

When individuals participate in democratic processes from a young age, they form lifelong habits of civic participation and voter engagement. Nineteen states already allow for 17-year-olds to vote in primary elections prior to them turning 18.

Madam Speaker, lowering the voting age to 16 will only strengthen our democratic institutions by exposing youth to our most sacred civic duty of voting. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation as we empower America's youth to help shape and guide our nation by allowing them to vote in all elections.

TRIBUTE TO MS. BARBARA
BEATRICE WALKER

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, Barbara Beatrice Walker was the true essence of love, hope and charity. She had and constantly demonstrated a warm, caring and giving spirit. Born and raised in Mississippi, Barbara always spoke fondly of her childhood and had a real sense of affection for the Piney Wood Boarding School which she attended and gave a great deal of credit for helping her to become the person that I and countless others came to know and love. She moved to Chicago, had a very successful career working for Cook County Health Services, married her husband Edgar and to their union, Michele was born. Barbara was totally devoted to Michele and to her son Herschel and ultimately Herschel Jr., her grandson and great grandson. Barbara was an active member of the 7th Congressional District Peoples Assembly where she often brought Southern style cooked food to feed the Congressman and I shall never forget it. Condolences to her family and we thank her for her service to humanity.

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, if I have not charity then I am nothing."

HONORING THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS BICENTENNIAL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor The George Washington University on the occasion of its bicentennial.

For two centuries, generations of students from around the world have come to The George Washington University (GW) to take full advantage of the unparalleled academic opportunities that accompany its unique vantage point in the heart of the nation's capital.

Indeed, the entire GW community is unique in that, regardless of what discipline one may choose to pursue there, all have chosen to attend the university because of their desire to make a difference in the world and their ability to utilize GW's vast network of partnerships, access and policy initiatives to translate that desire into action.

With its decades-long working relationships with nearly every federal agency, as well as numerous international multilateral organizations, the university's faculty have long been an indispensable source of groundbreaking research and ideas that not only create new knowledge but also transform policy that affects millions of people in their daily lives. While GW's traditional areas of strength have long been regarded as law, media and policy-making, the university is also pioneering discoveries in cybersecurity, tissue regeneration, robotics, autism, fighting extremism, HIV/AIDS, combating violence against women and girls worldwide, nanotechnology and building sustainable ecosystems, among many other areas. It should not come as a surprise that GW's doctors, researchers and public health officials have been at the forefront of COVID-19 research since the beginning and are diligently working to help address this urgent problem.

Moreover, the collective force of GW's two centuries is embodied by its distinguished alumni—now numbering more than 290,000 in 130 countries worldwide—whose ranks include some of the most consequential leaders of our time in practically every pursuit.

Furthermore, as a hub of intellect and dynamic human capital, the university continues to infuse the District of Columbia with its exciting mixture of ideas, diversity and youthful energy, which has made it an essential part of the city's civic and cultural life since its very founding.

Yet, none of this great success was either inevitable or preordained. It was only achieved by the commitment of generations of students, alumni, faculty and staff to build GW into a preeminent global research institution.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking and congratulating GW for two centuries of accomplishment and positive impact on the District, the rest of the nation and the world. I wish the university continued success into its third century and beyond.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GENE BARBARET

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great regret that I rise today to mourn and observe the passing of an eternal educator, Dr. Gene Barbaret of Mansfield, Connecticut. Having lived a full and active life, Gene passed away on his 101st birthday on January 11, 2021 due to complications related to the coronavirus.

Gene's life was intrinsically American, and he dedicated his lifeforce toward professorial teaching and sharpening the mind. To this end, Gene contributed a palpable value toward the strength and productivity of eastern Connecticut's community, the region I have the honor of representing. Dr. Barbaret, a first-generation scholar born to parents who immigrated from Alsace, France, was always eager to observe and take from his environment as the youngest of eight siblings. His story will be remembered by many as one of vigor, decency, and a passion for cultural enrichment.

As a lifelong learner, Gene was always destined to become the wisest of educators. His potential in the education industry was reflected from the start, such as when he graduated coaledictorian from Watertown High School in his hometown of Oakville, Connecticut. His deep French roots struck a clear cord with him from early on as well, motivating Mr. Barbaret to achieve a bachelors degree in French studies in 1941. Taking a break from his studies, Gene heeded the call to serve in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Upon his return from the war, however, Gene resumed a determined effort to expand upon his roots—transitioning his education to Princeton University and going on to achieve a masters and subsequent doctoral degree in French literature by 1951.

Not one to let knowledge go to waste, Gene brought his specialization back to our home state of Connecticut before obtaining his doctoral in 1949, marking the genesis of a career in sharing his experience as a faculty of the University of Connecticut (UConn). Dr. Barbaret went on to educate French Literature within UConn's Department of Modern and Classical Languages, building a true and personal connection to the University over the course of 40 years. He achieved this not by simply mastering lectures, but also by broadening his perspective alongside the very students he taught. As a professor, he personally oversaw the University's year long study abroad program to France, journeying with certain students across the Atlantic to better understand the international community and our place in it. Dr. Barbaret's impact cannot be understated—throughout his long tenure he came to be recognized with a variety of honors and accolades, eventually even becoming knighted as a chevalier by the French government for his contributions to the nation's culture. As a fondly remembered mentor and a good scholar, multiple scholarship funds were established under the University in his name to stimulate excellence in French.

Dr. Barbaret retired from UConn in 1990 as a revered professor emeritus. Though UConn

will always be his home as his eternal resting place, it should be noted that he engaged in a gregarious retirement, frequently travelling back to his heritage in France as well as other stints within Europe. He never gave up on the affinity for education either, acting as a volunteer teacher at the Donald Bergin Correction Institution, a board member of the Center for Learning in Retirement, and even initiating a weekly French conversational circle at the Mansfield Senior Center well into his latest years. Dr. Barbaret touched the lives of many who hail from eastern Connecticut.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent constituents as monumental and influential as Gene. His legacy is a lasting and tangible one, having expanded horizons for not only himself, but the lives of thousands of students, colleagues, and friends. While we all mourn his loss, we can at least find solace that his story, memory and purpose lives on in the lives of countless others. Therefore, I find it fitting that we as a institutional body set his name and character further into stone. I ask that the entire House join me in recognizing the life of Dr. Gene Barbaret and never forgetting that the best educators—and by extension leaders—never end their quest of learning.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ARGYLE
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Argyle High School Foot-

ball Team, the Argyle Eagles, and their victory at the 4A Division 1 championship.

After an undefeated 15-game season punctuated by remarkable skill, commitment, and diligence, the Argyle Eagles qualified for their UIL conference's Division I championship in December 2020. With a strong showing at the final game in Arlington's AT&T stadium, the team secured the state title for the second time in its history.

Led by head coach Todd Rodgers, Defensive MVP Zach Stewart, and Offensive MVP Tito Byce, the team's unbroken series of successes in the 2020 season culminated in their outstanding victory last month.

The teamwork, tenacity, and effort demonstrated by the Argyle Eagles team and coaches is highly commendable. In spite of the many challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the team, through diligence both on and off the field, overcame their obstacles and achieved their ultimate goal. I am happy to see the team's estimable fortitude be rewarded with another state title.

I congratulate the coaches and players of the Argyle High School Football Team for their admirable achievement in the 2020 football season, and for their exemplary devotion to both their team and their sport. I am privileged to be able to join the Argyle community, parents, family and friends who faithfully supported the team's efforts, as they celebrate this accomplishment, and I wish them well in all their future endeavors.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all

meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 9

9:15 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Neera Tanden, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

SD-342

FEBRUARY 10

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Neera Tanden, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

SD-608